

# THE PASTOR'S ESSENTIALS®

OUR LIVES IN THE BIBLE - THE BIBLE IN OUR LIVES

<sup>13</sup> "ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY ENTER THROUGH IT. <sup>14</sup> BUT SMALL IS THE GATE AND NARROW THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO LIFE, AND ONLY A FEW FIND IT.  
MATTHEW 7:13-14

**es-sen-tials** (ĭ-sĕn'shəlz) – *noun* – those things that are necessary and basic to life. In biochemistry essentials are substances that are required for normal functioning but cannot be synthesized by the body and therefore must be included in the diet. Essentials are those things that are fundamental to the spiritual health of the professing Christian.

## *The Gospel of Mark* A BIBLE STUDY

### SESSION FOUR

*Mark 3:7-4:34*

*Questions for Session Four*

1. Offer some explanation for 3:11-12. Who were the evil spirits? Who would these evil spirits tell? Why did Jesus not want them to tell anyone?
2. What is an apostle? How do we differentiate an apostle from a disciple? In the first century, how did Jesus differentiate one from the other? Explain.
3. Think about the appointed twelve. How do you suppose Jesus chose them? What criteria did he use in his selection process? What do you think he knew about them? If Jesus' were here with us choosing disciples right now, would Jesus choose you to be one of the twelve? Why or why not?

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4. In 3:20-21 what can we say about Jesus' family? What was the implication of the charge of insanity? What were Jesus' accusers attempting to accomplish?
5. Explain the parable of a kingdom or house divided against itself. What is blasphemy? How is blasphemy illustrated in 3:30? Just how serious is real blasphemy?
6. How did Jesus define his family? Was it comprised of the people with whom he kept company? How was this different from his natural, earthly family?
7. Why do you suppose Jesus taught from a boat in the lake as the crowds became larger and larger? What was the advantage of Jesus positioning himself just offshore?
8. Compare 4:9 with Revelation 2:7 and 2:17. What is the secret of the kingdom of God? We have read examples of *veiling* in other Scripture. Search for those examples and determine if this could be an example of *veiling*. Why or why not?

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9. What is the kingdom of God like? How is it described in the closing verses of ch. 4 in Mark's gospel? What is one major difference between God's eternal kingdom and our temporal, secular world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. Why do you suppose Jesus used parables in his teaching? Why do you think he explained each one of the parables to the appointed twelve when they were alone? Why do Jesus' parables resonate with his audience? Why do we often have difficulty relating to Jesus' parables?

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